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During their deployment, the 1AD soldiers conducted thousands of patrols and participated in more than 50 humanitarian aid projects.

“Be there no doubt that these soldiers were well-trained and ready for the mission and they set new standards for peacekeeping while deployed in Kosovo,” said Col. Joseph E. Orr, 1st Brigade commander, during the ceremony. “Because of their hard work, the people of Kosovo now live in a world that is much safer, a world where peace, stability and hope for a brighter future now flourishes.

“What we did in Kosovo was only half the mission,” Orr continued. “The other part of the mission was fought here...by a team of dedicated family members, soldiers and civilian employees, all working together to make this a truly great year for success. I can assure all of you that we recognize the many sacrifices each of you made while we were deployed.

“It’s hard to believe that one year ago we gathered around the same Christmas tree,” Orr said to the ceremony audience. He reminisced of prayers of safety, wisdom and strength for the brigade’s upcoming rotation and mission.

“Those prayers were answered,” Orr said, smiling to the troops, families and visitors gathered there as a cheer started to rise from the troops. “The entire Ready First Combat Team is safely home for the holidays.”



*Above:* A Task Force Knightmare soldier hugs his son after the homecoming ceremony in Hanau. *Far right:* The family of a 2nd Bn., 37th Armored Regiment soldier sports homemade homecoming shirts. *Right:* The first homecoming kiss of the Task Force Knightmare homecoming ceremonies. *Left:* Brenda Joyce Hill waves her flag and cheers for her husband, Sgt. 1st Class William Hill of HHC, 1st Bn., 36th Infantry Regiment as the unit entered the Friedberg gym. *Middle left:* Spc. Sam Johnson of 1st Bn., 37th Armored Regiment kisses his son, who was born during the deployment. *Top left:* A little girl is hoisted into the air by her father, a 1st Bn., 37th Armored Regiment soldier.



photo by Alexandra Williams, 284th BSB PAO